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method and to encourage others, if not to use the particular manuals, at any rate to undertake similar experiments. The *Manual* is much more accurately described by the word "physical" than "commercial." In fact, the reviewer was unable to see that the scientific study of the physical geography had been made anywhere to yield to requirements of commercial use. In other words, the geography taught by this method would furnish a basis for the understanding of commercial conditions as related to geography; but the commercial conditions seem not to be independently treated. It should be mentioned that, while the exercises include the world, special attention is given to the United States, all of whose geographic units are made the basis of special study.

In conclusion, the reviewer would say that all teachers of geography in normal schools and colleges should become acquainted with these manuals, as, whether they use them or not, they cannot fail to find many practical and stimulating suggestions.

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*Medical Inspection of Schools.* By LUTHER HALSEY GULICK and LEONARD P. AYRES. Pp. xx+224. \$1.50.

*Medical Inspection of Schools*, by Gulick and Ayres, made its first appearance in October, 1908, and that it filled a demand is guaranteed by the necessity of reprinting it in January, 1909, and again in December of the same year. Such remarkable advances had been made in five years that the authors very wisely decided to write an almost entirely new book under the same title and covering the same ground, rather than issue a fourth reprint of the somewhat out-of-date material.

Progress in the field of medical inspection of schools in America is noted along three main lines: (1) the increased number of states that have made inspection mandatory or permissive; (2) the extension of the scope of the work, which was at first inaugurated for and confined to the inspection of contagious diseases, to include the examination and supervision of non-communicable physical defects and unhygienic school environment; (3) the growing conviction that inspection of the physical condition of pupils is in the largest sense an educational concern, that each child must be developed for his own sake, as well as protected from others, and that perforce for this reason every feature of the work, except that which is concerned with contagious diseases, should be controlled by boards of education.

The subject-matter is treated under the following chapter headings: "The Argument for Medical Inspection"; "History and Present Status"; "Inspection for the Detection of Contagious Diseases"; "Physical Examinations"; "The School Nurse"; "Making Medical Inspection Effective"; "Results"; "Per Capita Cost and Salaries"; "Dental Inspection"; "Con-

trolling Authorities in American Municipalities"; "Physical Defects and School Progress"; "Legal Provisions."

In this new form one notes that special emphasis is given to the excellent work of dental inspection and that the topic of the relation of physical defects and school progress is more conservatively handled than in its original presentation. Excellent illustrations of examiners at work and selected specimens of good working blank forms for the records of examiners are printed and add much to the value of the book. In its present altogether presentable form this book represents a valuable summary of the status of medical inspection of schools at the present time, and an indispensable source of authority for guidance in the installation of the best schemes where hygienic supervision has not received sufficient attention, or for the reorganization and correction of unworkable and unsatisfactory programs for caring for diseased and physically defective children. It is a distinct contribution to this worthy propaganda.

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*American Poems.* Selected and edited by WALTER C. BRONSON.  
Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1912. Pp. v+669.  
\$1.00 net. Postpaid, \$1.15.

This volume is intended "for use in schools and colleges" and for individual readers who wish "to become acquainted at first hand with the whole field of American poetry." The selections extend from William Morrell's "New England" (1625) through the whole list of American poets, near poets, and verse-writers, down to Emily Dickinson's "Simplicity" (1892). In all, seventy writers are listed in the index, and, in addition, the volume contains the verses of a dozen anonymous poets. About 300 pieces fill the 356 pages; 40 pages are given to Barlow and Freneau, 260 to the group of great nineteenth-century poets, and 50 to Whitman and Lanier; somewhat less than 200 pages remain for the other 75 writers.

Thus do comparatively unknown poets rub shoulders with masters. Indeed, the editor frankly affirms that "the space allotted to individual authors is not determined wholly by poetical merit. . . . Trumble, Barlow, and Freneau, for example, are each given more pages than Holmes, not because they are better poets, but because their works are less accessible."

Accessibility as an important principle of selection has given the volume both its weakness and its strength. An unavoidable shortcoming lies in the fact that at least fifty or sixty of the eighty-odd authors are comparatively mediocre. Their verses are perhaps good enough to serve as an appropriate setting for the few gems of American poetry. By the principle of contrast even a gold setting is dull when compared with the jewel; so "The Day of